

## Message Text

PAGE 01 KINSHA 00338 111808Z

64

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 077781

R 111730Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6176

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

S E C R E T KINSHASA 0338

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS(1)

TAGS: PFOR, CG, PO, PINS

SUBJECT: TENSION BETWEEN MOBUTU AND THE ARMED FORCES

1. MALADROIT HANDLING BY GOZ OF NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY MOBUTU ON NOVEMBER 30 HAS CREATED TENSION BETWEEN MOBUTU AND THE ARMY IN ADDITION TO CAUSING

WIDESPREAD CONFUSION IN COMMERICAL CIRCLES.

2. GOZ CLEARLY IN NO POSITION IMPLEMENT SOON OR EFFICIENTLY SWEEPING ECONOMIC MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY MOBUTU NOV. 30 AIMED AT ZAIRIANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE AND FOREIGN-OWNED COMMERCE AND NATIONALIZATION OF SUBSIDIARIES OF UNION MINIERE. UNCERTAINTY AS TO JUST WHICH ENTERPRISES WILL BE ZAIRIANIZED AND UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS HAS LED TO WIDESPREAD CONFUSION WITH MANY WHOLESALERS CANCELLING ORDERS EN ROUTE. THIS CONFUSION WAS COMPOUNDED BY GOZ'S MALADROIT HANDLING OF JUST WHO WAS ENTITLED TO PROFIT FROM ZAIRIANIZATION. INITIALLY, IT APPEARED THAT THE CRITERIA WERE (A) ABILITY TO OPERATE THE ENTERPRISES AFFECTED, AND (B) SOLVENCY. THESE RATHER VAGUE GUIDELINES APPARENTLY CAUSED GREAT AND WIDESPREAD EXPECTATION INCLUDING THE ARMED FORCES.

3. EVIDENTLY AS A RESULT OF THE EXPECTATIONS AROUSED AND THE DIFFICULTY OF CHOOSING BETWEEN COMPETING ASPIRANTS, MOBUTU SOUGHT TO CALM MATTERS BY DEC. 26  
SECRET

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ANNOUNCEMENT THAT BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE OF STRATEGIC (I.E. LARGE) ENTERPRISES AND AGRI-BUSINESSES, THESE WOULD BE RESERVED FOR HIS CLOSE COLLABORATORS, THEREBY EXCLUDING THE ARMY AND CIVIL SERVICE. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE

REPORTS, THIS WENT DOWN BADLY IN THE OFFICER CORPS.  
BETWEEN DEC. 26 AND HIS ADDRESS ON DEC. 31, MOBUTU  
REVERSED FIELD AND ANNOUNCED THAT THE STATE WOULD  
TAKE OVER THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ENTERPRISES. SINCE  
THEN HE HAS MOVED TO PLACATE THE MILITARY BY THE  
MEASURES CITED IN KINSHASA 319.

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT SEE ANY THREAT TO MOBUTU'S  
REGIME AS THE RESULT OF THE ABOVE CONTRETEMPS.  
HOWEVER, IT IS THE FIRST TIME IN MEMORY THAT HE HAS  
BEEN FORCED TO ALTER COURSE SO ABRUPTLY. END COMMENT.  
NEWLIN

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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